

Youth Investment Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2015 9:00am

Present: Ivan Adorno, Padma Arvind, Lauren Balkan, David Blevins, Leslie Burwell, Charoulla Castanos-Beaton, Sherri Goldberg, Kenya Graham, Charles Hager, Bertalan Kormann, Kirk Lew, Evelyn Rosa, Jeff Shulman, Mary Tarrant, Naomi Vliet

Staff: Jody Bramson, Rick DeJesus, Janice Alexander, Nicole Montero

Jody Bramson, Youth One Stop Manager, began the meeting with the introduction of all present members and guests.

Approval of minutes from the November 6, 2014 Meeting

Charles Hager motioned to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2015 YIC meeting as distributed previously by email and Mary Tarrant seconded. The vote was called and the motion passed to approve the minutes as written.

RFP/Contract 2015 – 16 Update

The Youth Department worked completed the RFP for PY 2015 – 2016. However it was not released due to the new regulations for WIOA not being distributed in time for the upcoming program year.

The Middlesex County College contract was extended for PY 2015 – 2016.

WIA/WIOA Update for Youth Program

In July, 2015 the Youth program will start serving youth between the ages of 16 – 24. If a youth needs to attain a high school equivalency diploma, income will no longer be required as an eligibility requirement for the youth program.

If they possess a high school diploma or equivalency they will only require one barrier to enter the program. Income can now be that barrier, but needs to be accompanied by Basic Skills Deficiency, ESL or another locally defined barrier. Ms. Bramson reported that 20% of the youth funds will have to be used for Work Experience. If the youth's family is eligible for free or reduced school lunch or is living in a high poverty area, they will be eligible for the youth program. If the youth was an offender, in foster care, or pregnant they will be eligible for the youth program. On June 30, 2015 all the ITA waivers will stop.

YIC Update

The new WIOA regulations do not mandate a Youth Investment Councils. Kirk Lew, from NJSETC clarified what it means. He stated that WIOA can create a stand-alone committee similar to the Youth

Investment Council. In 2007 the SETC was very strict on who should be attending the meetings but that it was difficult getting some required members to attend meetings. He put together a plan that was equivalent to the Youth Investment Council on the state level and made recommendations to the SETC, The Shared Youth Vision Council gives SETC recommendation on how the Youth Investment Council should be. He stated it was up to the local office to decide. Ms. Bramson stated we are keeping the committee, but it will not be called Youth Investment Council and will be downsized. Ms. Bramson reported the Youth Investment Committee needs more employers and business representatives.

State Audit

Ms. Bramson reported that verbal confirmation was given by the State that we passed the audit conducted this summer for Work Experience and the audit conducted in December. She reported that we are having another audit in May. We are still waiting for the confirmation from the State.

High School Equivalency Examination – Graduation Plans

Ms. Bramson reported a lot of participants took the HSE examination in April. The March examination was suspended due to McGraw Hill's computer system going offline and we are waiting for the April 1, 2015 examination results. She reported that we are inviting thirty-two participants to attend the graduation on June 10, 2015 which will be held at Middlesex County College in Crabiel Hall.

Status of Five Programs

MCC Work Readiness:

There are a total of 18 participants in the Work Readiness program including 3 carry-ins. There are 15 new participants. 4 participants transferred from the MCC GED program.

MCC Perth Amboy GED:

There are a total of 32 participants in the Perth Amboy GED program including 6 carry-ins. There are 26 new participants. 1 participant transferred to the Youth Work Readiness program.

MCC Carteret GED:

There are a total of 24 participants in the Carteret GED program including 4 carry-ins. There are 14 new participants.

Ms. Bramson reported that MCC Carteret GED program will be moving to the MCC Edison campus.

Perth Amboy MC4YOU

Nicole Montero, MC4 Y.O.U Perth Amboy Youth Coordinator, reported there are a total of 25 participants in MC 4 YOU. There are 10 new participants, 2 participants transferred from the MCC GED, 12 ITA were completed, 6 new participants are in ITA, and 6 were terminated.

New Brunswick MC4YOU

Juan DeJesus, MC4 Y.O.U New Brunswick Youth Coordinator, reported there are 32 carry-ins, 16 participants are in ITA and 1 ITA completed. 3 participants were successfully employed at the end of their training.

MCWAG/Work Experience Status

Ms. Bramson reported 1 Plumber participant will finish at his 3 months' Work Experience worksite on May 16, 2015 and will be hired at the end of the MCWAG program. The MCWAG Program name will be changed to "Work Experience."

MCWAG/Youth Career Services Coordinator Position

A new MCWAG Coordinator was hired and will start on June 1, 2015. The MCWAG Coordinator title has been changed to "Youth Career Service Coordinator."

MCWAG Committee

Ms. Bramson informed the YIC members there will no longer be a MCWAG Committee or interview panel.

Industry Tours

To present - three industry tours have been completed for PY 2014–15. The first Industry Tour was on October 8, 2014 at Parkside Industries and the second Industry Tour was on December 16, 2014 at PSE&G. The third Industry tour was a visit to Wegmans on March 16, 2015. All three tours were very successful. The last Industry Tour will be a visit to Rutgers on May 6, 2015.

Recruitment

On May 1, 2015 Nicole Montero and three MC 4 Y.O.U participants volunteered for Habitat for Humanity in Perth Amboy. The three MC 4 Y.O.U participants spoke at the YIC Meeting about their experience volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and about their experience in the Youth Program. Ms. Bramson showed pictures of the participants working on the work site.

Nicole Montero and Ricky DeJesus visited all the High Schools in Middlesex County and handed out information about the Youth Program and services. The Youth Staff also visited the Probation Offices, area libraries, teen centers, and health centers and handed out information about the Youth Program and services.

On May 2, 2015, the Youth Staff set up a table and handed out information about the WIA Youth Programs and services at the Cinco De Mayo Health Fair.

The Youth Staff will be visiting DCP&P, Woodbridge Job Fair, and Healthier New Brunswick in May, 2015 to hand out information about the Youth Program and services.

Ms. Bramson reported that the MCC Youth program is serving 150 participants which was the goal. The Learning Link is now offering High School Equivalency services.

Evelyn Rosa, from MCC New Brunswick Center recommended the Youth Programs materials be made available in Spanish. Ms. Bramson also reported that we are adding the Youth Program onto the Career Beacon online.

Ms. Bramson reported from June 30, 2014 to present, 113 students dropped out of school.

Ms. Bramson asked the YIC members if they had any recommendation on any aptitude and assessment websites that the Youth Program could explorer.

Jody Bramson adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the Youth Council is Tuesday, August 11, 2015